



**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS  
FROM  
ALL OF US AT  
THE COLLEGIAN**

**HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE**



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GEORGE WALKER | THE COLLEGIAN

Figuring out what to get someone as a gift can stump even the most creative person. When in doubt, remember the Golden Rule, “do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

## Culture, psychology influence gift-giving ideologies, traditions

By JAMIE TEIXEIRA  
THE COLLEGIAN

The act of giving a gift is something that may seem simple, almost natural. But what you might not know is that both psychology and culture are important influences on the practice.

Although giving presents is common, throughout society, there are many differences from country to country and culture to culture. Xiu Wang, sophomore in chemical engineering and exchange student from China, said there are many different traditions in the U.S. compared to her home country.

“In America I think there are many gift cards, and people give money,” Wang said. “I think (it’s) unnecessary to give us (people) the money.”

There are many unique traditions and practices depending on the culture or country. One tradition in Chinese culture is giving an apple as a gift during the holidays.

“We give apple to mean (we) wish you safe,” Youwei Yang, director of international affairs of the Student Government Association and sophomore in agricultural economics, said. “Apple in Chinese is similar to safety.”

Even though each culture has a different set of traditions and ideas, giving a gift is common practice. According to Mi-

chael Wesch, associate professor of anthropology at K-State, it is basic human interaction.

“Through most of human history, gift giving has been the primary method of exchange,” Wesch said.

In today’s society, the idea of exchanging gifts can be somewhat of a controversy. Laura Brannon, professor of psychology at K-State, said gifts can have a serious affect on the relationship between the giver and receiver, and instances in which one party is expecting an exchange, instead of simply presenting the gift, can lead to disappointment.

“(Giving gifts) can bring the individuals closer,” Brannon said. “(Or) can lead to resentment.”

According to Brannon both reactions, good and bad, are a result of trying to understand the giver’s reason for giving the gift. Different interpretations of why can impact how the person feels toward the giver.

“Receiving a well-thought out gift can make the recipient feel cared about and strengthen the relationship,” Brannon said. “One negative to receiving gifts is that it can set up a sense of obligation.”

Around the holiday season that feeling of obligation to give a gift is common, especially in commercialized environments. Wesch said he believes that the commercialization of holidays in U.S. creates a negative culture surrounding gifts.

Brannon said one reason gifts have become an important part of our culture, in addition to the desire to show affection and strengthen relationships, is that there are many people who make money off of the act of our giving gifts.

“Advertisers have a very vested interest in keeping us focused on the importance of giving gifts,” Brannon said. “Many advertisements make it seem like the best or only way to show true affection for someone is to buy them a lot of expensive gifts.”

Brannon said research shows that time and effort put into a gift is what matters more than a monetary cost.

“It seems like there is something to the old adage, it’s the thought that counts,” Brannon said.

According to Wang, making something by hand for a friend or family member is unusual, but seems to mean a lot more than buying something.

“In China, we only buy something (for) others, not cook something or make something by themselves,” Wang said. “American people really make something by their heart.”

The act of giving a gift is highly-influenced by psychology and culture. Both seem to say a lot about showing how much a person cares. Whether they choose to show it by giving someone an apple or baking a cake, gifts can impact the future of the relationship.

## Street Talk

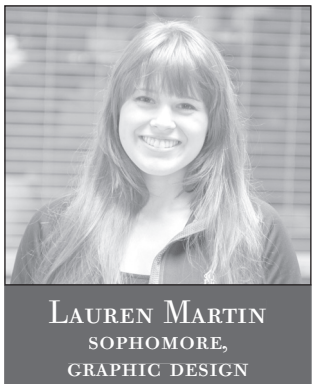
compiled by George Walker

Q: “What are you gifting a family member this holiday season?”



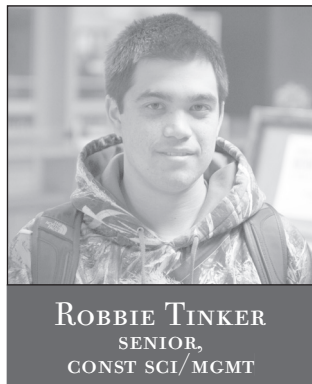
KARLA WASINGER  
FRESHMAN,  
MCMT/INFO SYSTEMS

“I’m getting my mom a new bottle of perfume.”



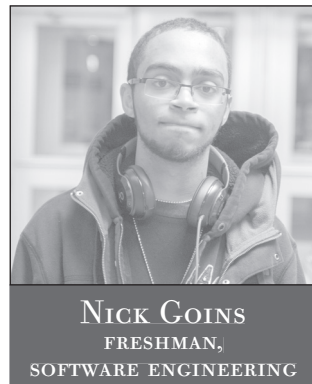
LAUREN MARTIN  
SOPHOMORE,  
GRAPHIC DESIGN

“I bought scarves for my mother, father and brother from a fundraiser at the K-State Student Union.”



ROBBIE TINKER  
SENIOR,  
CONST SCI/MCMT

“I’m getting my parents a bunch of K-State gear – a bunch of purple.”



NICK GOINS  
FRESHMAN,  
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“I’m going to get my brother some speakers for Christmas.”

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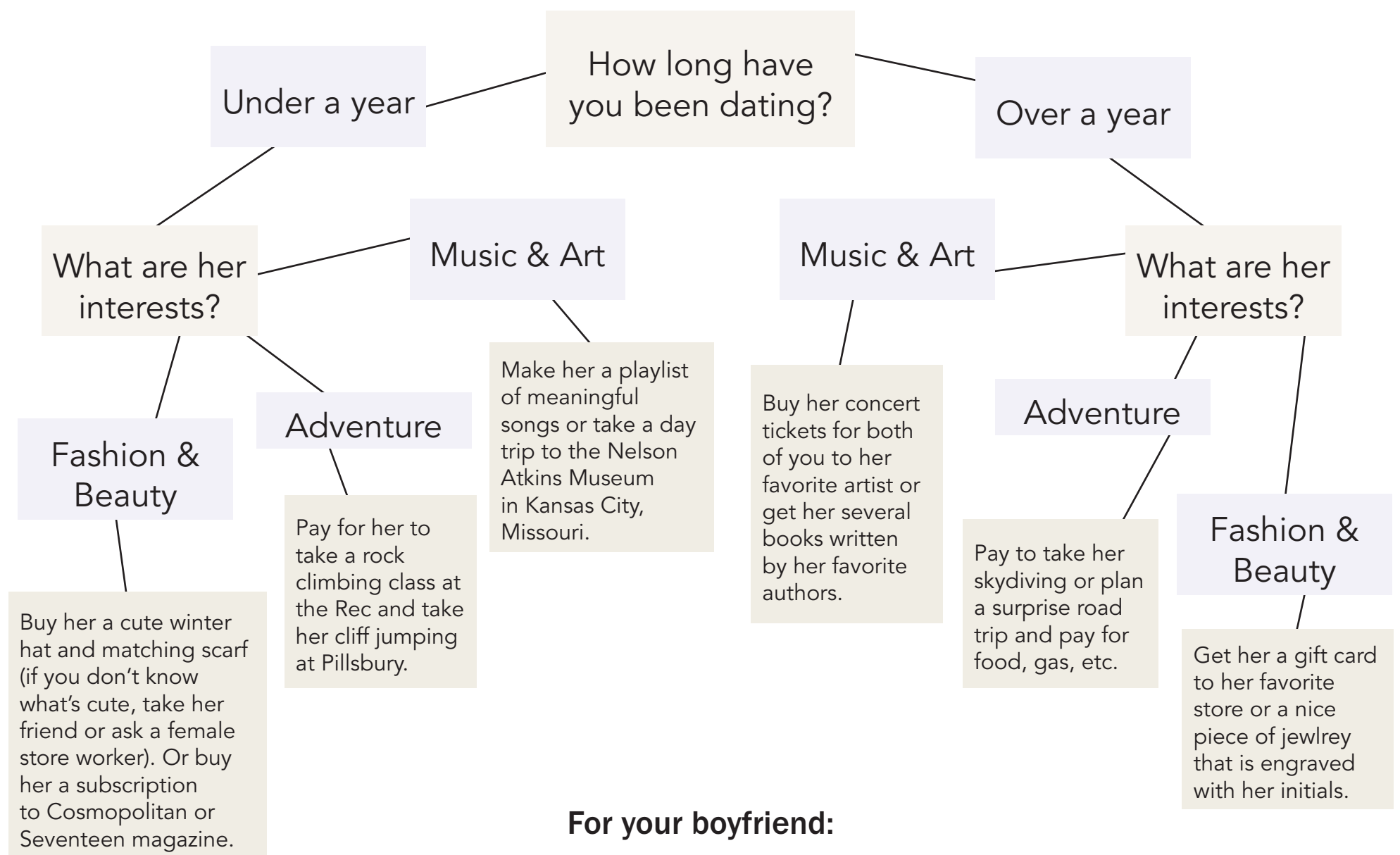
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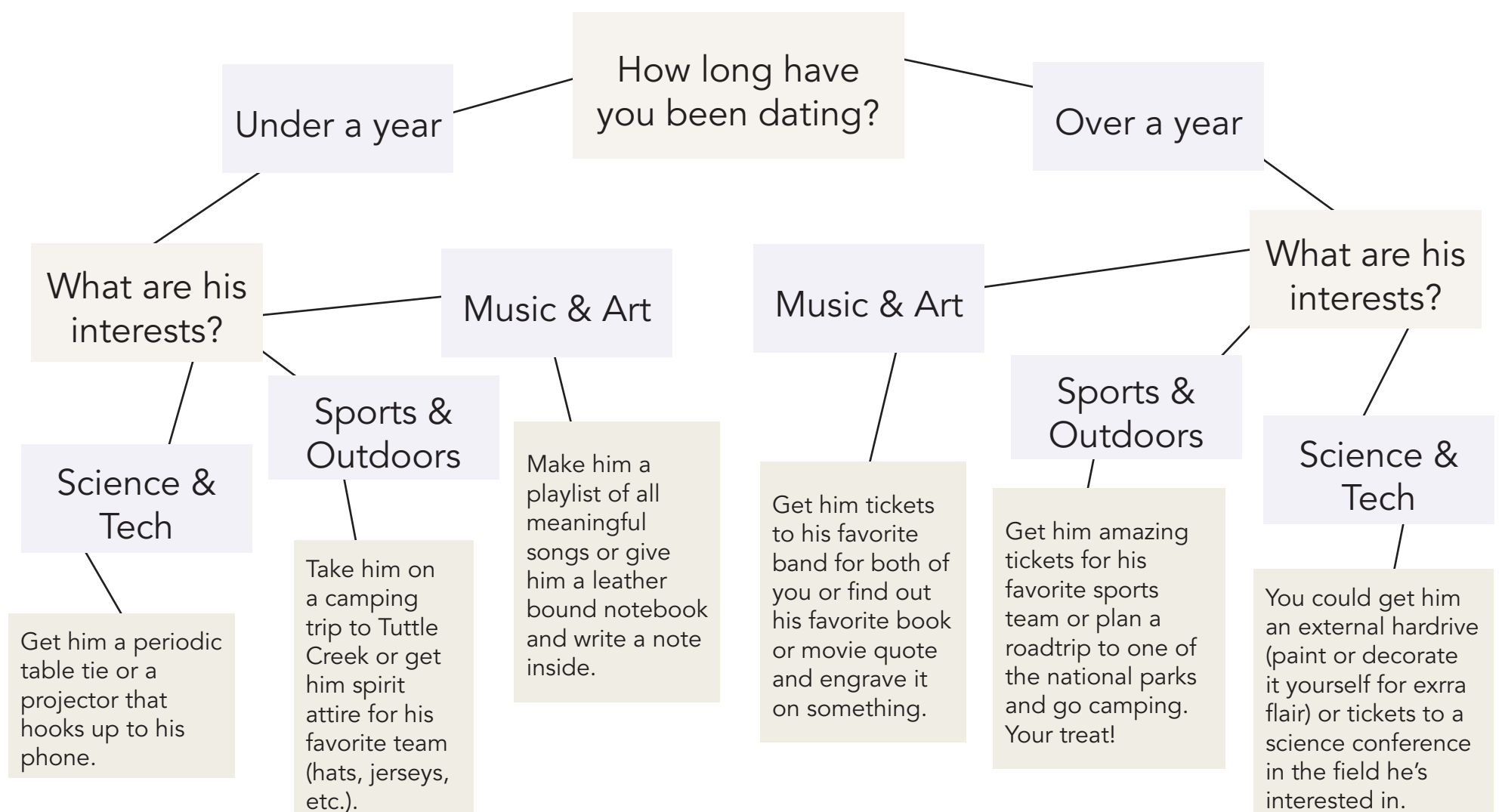


# Here's how to stay out of the cathouse

## For your girlfriend:



## For your boyfriend:



## Check out the Finals Guide

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# Get the best gifts out there on a college student's budget



SONIA KUMAR  
THE COLLEGIAN

It's December, the time of the year when holiday music begins to play and we ready ourselves for the gift-giving season. This evokes both excitement and fear in many college students – excitement to celebrate with your family and the much needed month off, coupled with the fear of wondering how you'll manage to buy a present for everyone on your list.

Well, here are some fun gifts under \$20 that will not only be a

treat for your bank account, but also a treat for your loved ones as well.

## Creative cookies

For those looking for something different yet gimmicky, Baking with My Homies cookie stamps are a great present. Made for anyone who loves baking, especially during the holiday season, these cookie dough stamps imprint your cookies with the image of Tupac Shakur, Notorious B.I.G and others. Even those who hate baking will get a kick out of making baked goods rapper-shaped. Costing \$10 for a pack of three, this is a great novelty present that is also useful. Pair it with some icing, starting around \$1.98 at WalMart and you have a creative gift combination under \$15.

## Earbuds

Everyone goes through earbuds relatively quickly, so why

not gift someone a set that will be worth the use? The Monoprice 9927 costing \$7, the RHA-MA-150 costing \$12.95 at Amazon and the Panasonic RP-TCM125-K costing \$16 on Amazon are all great options that provide a great value for the under-\$20 price according to LifeHacker, a lifestyle website.

However, you could also take the other route and opt to enjoy your short-lived time with your earbuds by going for a cuter pair. Boo the World's Cutest Dog Headphones are only \$7.80 and absolutely adorable. Who doesn't like Boo the World's Cutest Dog? Since earbuds are never durable, might as well get a cute pair that will bring a smile.

## Reading material

"5: Where Will You Be Five Years from Today," a great book by Dan Zadra can help you plan ahead to structure the next five years of your life. Costing \$9.26,

you can gift a book that can inspire a friend or help someone set goals and discover what they want to do with their lives. Rated 4.5 out of five stars, Amazon, this book will be a worthy investment for anyone wanting to kick off the new year positively.

## Knock Knock pad

Any Knock Knock pad is a perfect holiday gift. These specific, pre-illustrated pads are great for a variety of useful and fun uses such as a variety of different To-Do pads costing \$7, and a Why I'm in a Really, Really, Really Bad Mood pad costing \$7. These notepads are great for when you can't display your anger to your roommate or just need some organization in your life. The Why I'm in a Really, Really, Really Bad Mood pad is great and can easily explain hundreds of reasons for your frustration on a sheet. There are also clever pads like, High-five and Just Sayin',

ranging from \$3.99-\$7. Ultimately a great, funny and affordable gift.

## Throwback gifts

Who doesn't want to relive bits and pieces of their childhood? The Feel So A-Lava Volcano Kit for \$19.99 can help anyone feel alive again with a fun educational paper-mache volcano kit. A fun gift to give to a sibling or a younger relative, this fun science experiment is something that everyone can reap the benefits of over the holidays. It is also totally Instagram worthy.

*The views and opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of The Collegian.*

Sonia Kumar is a sophomore in apparel marketing and textiles. Please send comments to [edge@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:edge@kstatecollegian.com).



Photo Illustration by George Walker

# Save money during this holiday season by planning ahead

By DONI LEE  
PFC ADVISER

The holidays are a fun and exciting time for almost everyone, but their financial status may not be up to par. Buying gifts for family and friends is no easy task for anyone, especially for students considering the sandwich-based meals we get to enjoy at all times, and the pressure of student loans that need to be re-paid. Most students, understand the burden of empty pockets after the holidays yet many find it difficult to stay financially responsible. Here are some tips from Powercat Financial Counseling that will help you come up with a plan to make sure your upcoming holidays are stress free.

## Plan ahead

The key to any successful goal is to have a plan and

follow through with it. Your holiday spending should be no different, by determining what you want to spend before hand and smart budgeting through the holiday season, you can ensure you have money left at the start of next year.

1. Determine Costs: Calculate how much money you have and the amount you wish to spend on each person on your shopping list. If you already know the gift(s) you want to give, document it and the price. If you are unsure of the price, search for it on the internet for an estimate. This will help you stay organized and allow you to shop around and compare prices to get the most value for money spent. When calculating costs, people often forget to include traveling and transportation costs and food purchases - costs like a tank of gas and a semi-expensive meal can add up and hurt your budget so be sure to include them as well.

2. Set Money Aside: Setting aside an amount each month or a percentage of each paycheck can definitely add up. For example, setting aside \$20 each month starting the month of the holiday, adds up to \$240 by the end of December. Stash it away in a separate checking or savings account to prevent using during the holiday season. A lot of banks have a function that will automatically transfer a set amount to another bank account periodically.

## Reducing Costs

Reducing costs might be difficult for some, especially when it comes to the holiday season. We all want the best for those on our shopping list but that does not have to mean you break the bank when shopping. Here are some easy steps to reducing costs when you shop for gifts during the holiday season.

Prioritize, does your cousin really need the whole

box set of "Friends" or will just one season do? Do you really need to get your significant other five gifts this season? Trim your list and downsize the amount of money you wish to spend on everyone.

Shop alone to avoid peer pressure or interrupted thinking.

Get creative, buy items in bulk and make gifts yourself, participate in gift exchanges, or send free E-Cards.

Holiday season is a shopper's paradise, prices are low everywhere and the entire month of December

Score on great sales by buying decorations or gifts after the holiday to save for the next one.

Shopping online may reduce costs considering deals not offered in stores, but beware of shipping and handling costs which could drive the price up.

If you intend to travel

during the holidays, be flexible and book flights and hotels early as possible. Prices soar as holidays approach.

Finally, remember that the holidays are all about family and simply just give the gift of time. Spending time with your loved ones is greater than any gift you could give - they don't get to see you much during the year, so take the time and spend it with them.

If you still need help or have questions regarding your financial status, Powercat Financial Counseling is a service located here on campus that is offered to K-State students for free. Whether you have questions regarding holiday spending,

creating a budget, repaying loans, or questions about credit cards and credit scores/reports, PFC can help. Feel free to contact PFC at [powercatfinancial@k-state.edu](mailto:powercatfinancial@k-state.edu) or request an appointment through ISIS.

Doni Lee is a Junior in Finance and a peer financial counsellor for Powerboat Financial Counseling.

*The views and opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of The Collegian.*

Doni Lee is a junior in finance and a PFC peer financial counselor.

## How To Get What You Want:



1. Circle your favorite items.
2. Cut on dotted line.
3. Send to Santa.  
(we can ship to Santa, if that helps)

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# What to give to the farmer that feeds you this holiday season

By MELISSA GRIMMEL  
THE COLLEGIAN

During the holiday season, farmers can be especially difficult to shop for. Here are some things you could get your favorite farmer that they would be thrilled about:

## Shirts and jackets

When the weather is hot and the sun is beaming down during the summertime, it's easy to get overheated. Button-down shirts help protect your skin from the sun and help to keep you cool, enabling your skin to breathe. Find a light-weight material and light colors — dark colors attract the sun. Button-downs are a necessity when farmers are outside in the summer heat.

Similarly, a nice jacket is great for the winter. Refrain from jackets that are too bulky and make it hard to move. Carhartt is a farmer's favorite brand, for their jackets are thin, but are extremely warm. After all, the work does not stop when the temperatures drop.

Tractor Supply offers many button-downs for men and women beginning at \$20. Carhartt offers many styles of jackets. Most start at \$100 and get more expensive based on thickness. The jackets are built to last a long time, even in harsh weather.

## Boots and boot dryer

A good pair of boots is a requirement for any farmer. It is extremely dangerous to wear tennis shoes while working. Red Wing and Muck Boots are brand favorites while working outside. They keep the feet protected and dry for any task.

A boot dryer is also a great idea for the winter, try Titan Out-

let Store. When there is snow on the ground and temperatures are low, it is nice to put on a dry, warm pair of boots to begin a long day of work.

Muck Boots start at around \$200 and go up based on height, insulations and material. Boot dryers can range from \$40 to \$100, depending on the brand, size, settings, etc. Dicks Sporting Goods offers a generic boot dryer for \$40. However, Cabela's offers a boot dryer that can hold four boots for \$100.

## Tools

Whether it is a tool kit or a Sears gift card, farmers can always use a new set of tools. It is common for a piece of equipment to break, so farmers need a good set of tools to get something up and running again. In addition, farmers are notorious for creating new objects to get a task accomplished. Tools can range from screwdrivers and wrenches to drills and electric saws.

Sears offers a Craftsman 309-piece mechanics toolset for \$185. Home Depot offers a DEWALT combo kit for \$500, which includes a premium hammer drill, an impact driver, a circular saw, a reciprocating saw and a work light.

## Truck floor mats

While it is important to keep skin protected, it is also important to keep a new truck in good shape. Truck floor mats are great to keep the interior clean if you cannot brush the last bit of mud off of your boots. To customize, you can find brands such as John Deere truck floor mats to represent a farmer's favorite brand.

Amazon offers John Deere floor mats for \$40 a piece. Plain black floor mats are on sale at



Possible gifts such as a nice button up shirt, jacket, boots, or tools.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY VAIL MOSHIRI | THE COLLEGIAN

Tractor Supply for \$15 apiece.

## Painting

Wall decor can make any house feel like a home. Whether it is bought from a store or handmade, a piece of art can make any farmer smile after a long day of hard work. You can find paintings of cattle in a peaceful pasture, combines during an evening har-

vest or even a family photo.

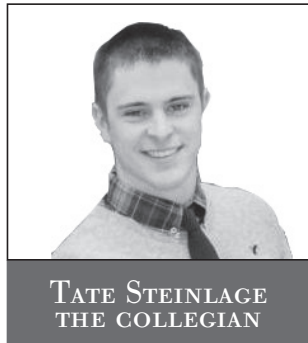
Legacy Livestock Imaging offers ranch photographs beginning at \$175. You may also contact them to come to your house to take pictures of your farm, ranch or for family portraits. Art.com also offers drawings, paintings and photographs of peaceful country scenery.

Next time you shop for a

farmer, be sure to keep the items above in mind. It is always good to see a smile on a face that does so much for you. After all, no farms means no food.

**Melissa Grimmel is a junior in agricultural communications and journalism. Please send all comments to [edge@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:edge@kstatecollegian.com).**

# Five must-have video games you should gift the serious gamer in your life



TATE STEINLAGE  
THE COLLEGIAN

Video games are often a hot gift during the holidays. Here are five games you can't pass up on:

## 'Far Cry 4'

Xbox One, PlayStation 4, Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, PC

A beautiful, open-world set in the snow-packed Himalayas. A crazed leader who's style would confuse you for a fashion designer. "Far Cry" has never been this good — or this deadly. "Far Cry 4" takes what made the previous installment so great — a vast sandbox worth exploring — and tacks on even more crazy. It's an experience that you could easily put 100 hours in and barely scratch the surface of the main story, and it's one of the best games this year.

**Price:** \$60 for all platforms on Amazon.

## 'Middle-earth: Shadow of Mordor'

Xbox One, PlayStation 4, Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, PC

In few video games does death really matter. But in "Middle-earth: Shadow of Mordor," it's everything. Your demise



Photo courtesy of Ubisoft

could mean the rise in ranks for your foe, and down the road they're bound to remember you.

"Middle-earth: Shadow of Mordor" does a fantastic job of blending the combat of the "Batman" video game series — fast and fluid, focused on counter-attacking — with the traversal of the "Assassin's Creed" series. The result is excellent gameplay, an intriguing and familiar setting, and a nemesis system that's never been seen before in a game.

**Price:** \$25.99 for PlayStation 4 and Xbox One, \$53.75 for PlayStation 3, \$41.99 on Xbox 360 and \$54.28 for PC on Amazon.

## 'Super Smash Bros. for Wii U'

Nintendo Wii U

Seeing Mario and Pikachu duke it out is a joy. Seeing the two Nintendo icons go toe-to-toe in the Wii Fit Trainer's world? Hysterical.

"Super Smash Bros. for Wii U's" lineup of 30 characters spanning the entire Nintendo universe is worth the price tag alone. However, it just so happens that the roster of characters, the various stages for combat and the online multiplayer make for one of the most enjoyable Smash Bros. experiences to



Photo courtesy of Nintendo

date.

Did we also mention that it's one of the best party games — regardless of whether or not alcohol is involved?

**Price:** \$59.96 for Nintendo Wii U

## 'The Walking Dead: Season Two'

Xbox One, PlayStation 4, Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, PS Vita

TellTale Games broke into

the limelight last year with "The Walking Dead: The Complete First Season," a spinoff series based on the Walking Dead comic books. After an emotional ending to the first season (which I won't spoil), season two takes you on an adventure with a new playable character in a terrifying world.

You don't have to play season one to pick this one up, but I'd recommend it. Your de-

cisions in the game help shape the various outcomes along the episodic adventure. With an outstanding cast of characters and excellent writing, "The Walking Dead: Season Two" is bound to tug at your emotions.

**Price:** \$28.49 for Xbox One, \$27.49 for PS4, \$29.99 for Xbox 360, \$28.50 for PlayStation 3 and \$14.99 on PlayStation Vita on Amazon

## 'South Park: The Stick of Truth'

Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, PC

Few video games can get away with the kind of things "South Park" does, but Matt Stone and Trey Parker have been doing it for years with the television series.

"South Park: The Stick of Truth" tackles issues like religion, abortion, global warming and more in a hilariously-written role-playing game that (surprise!) is actually a fun game to play. It's not as big of a game as say, "Far Cry 4," but it's enough to enjoy the ride as a South Park newbie or longtime veteran.

**Price:** \$26.15 for Xbox 360, \$38.19 for PlayStation 3 and \$27.99 for PC on Amazon.

*The views and opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of The Collegian.*

**Tate Steinlage is a junior in mass communications. Please send all comments to [edge@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:edge@kstatecollegian.com).**

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# 5-minute DIY holiday gifts

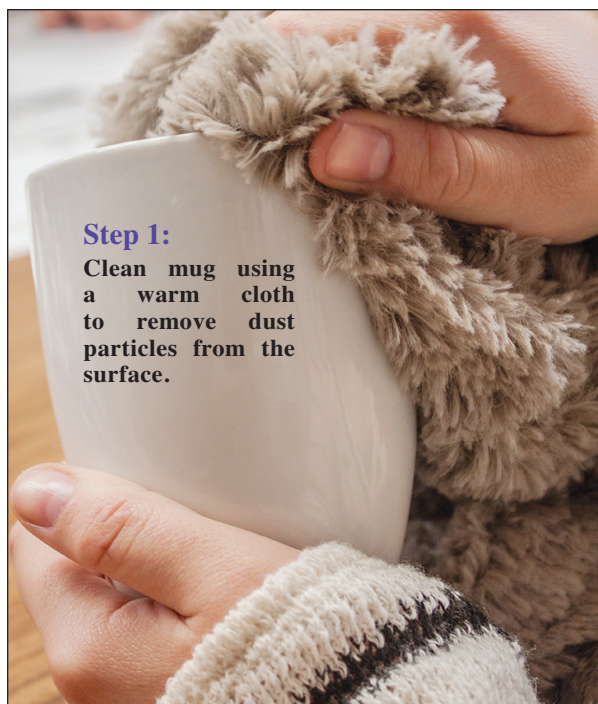
Nothing says “I care” more than a personalized gift that you made yourself. Do-it-yourself gifts make the best presents not only because it shows you know what the person likes, but also that you had more forethought than just clicking the “buy” button on a heavily discounted Amazon product.

As students, we have neither the money nor the time to come up elaborate gifts for friends, so here are some quick, easy and inexpensive DIY gifts that you can give your loved ones this holiday season:

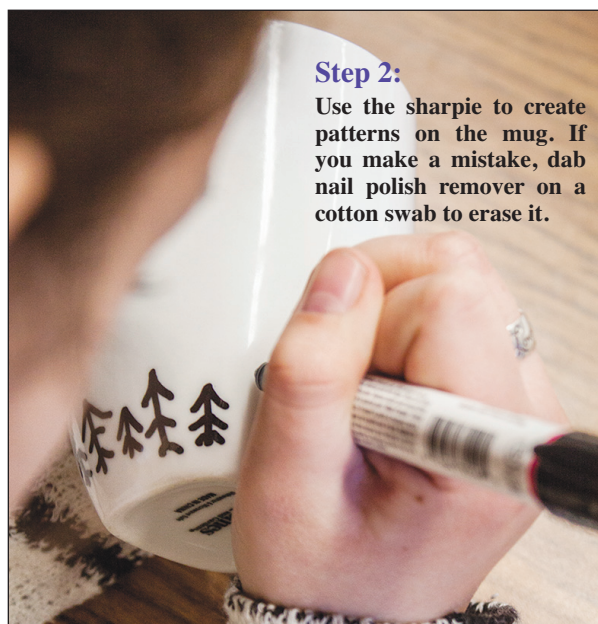
## Coffee Mug

From coffee to ramen, mugs are used extensively in college so gifting someone a mug personalized to their style makes for a great gift that they are likely to use often.

**What you need:**  
Ceramic mug  
Oil-based Sharpie  
Nail polish remover  
Steady hands  
A practice mug



**Step 1:**  
Clean mug using a warm cloth to remove dust particles from the surface.



**Step 2:**  
Use the sharpie to create patterns on the mug. If you make a mistake, dab nail polish remover on a cotton swab to erase it.



**Step 3:**  
Bake mug at 375 degrees for 20 minutes and allow to cool.

## Irish hot cocoa

Winter can be quite dreary, but everything can be made better with a glass of hot chocolate. Add a little bit of alcohol to the mix and it makes for a perfect late-evening drink.

**What you need:**  
Mason jar  
Hot cocoa mix  
Marshmallows  
Baileys Irish Cream Shooters



**Step 1:**  
Pour cocoa mix into a clean mason jar.



**Step 2:**  
Fill mason jar with marshmallows.



**Step 3:**  
Attach some shooters of Bailey's Irish Cream (if the recipient is 21, of course).

## All-in-one

Filling up a travel mug with multiple small gifts tailored to its recipient allows you to personalize your gift down to inside jokes and shared memories.

**What you need:**  
Travel-sized mug  
Bunch of small gifts that are personalized to recipient



**Step 1:**  
Collect candy, toys, gift cards and any other small, fun item you can find.

**Step 2:**  
Make it all fit into a travel mug.

**Step 3:**  
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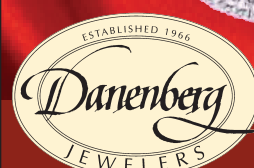
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